

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 04440 221906Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----032495 230729Z /11

R 221745Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6176
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T RABAT 4440

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PEPR AG MO MR SS
SUBJECT: GUEDIRA'S COMMENTS ON MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA

1. IN TWO SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS DURING SAUNDERS VISIT
ROYAL COUNSELOR REDA GUEDIRA PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION
ON MOROCCAN, ALGERIAN, MAURITANIAN RELATIONS.

2. IN DESCRIBING MOROCCAN RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW MAURITANIAN
GOVERNMENT, GUEDIRA TOLD HOW HE HAD FLOWN TO NOUAKCHOTT ON
THE FIRST DAY AFTER THE NEW GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER. HE HAD
BEEN WITH SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD AT LUNCH WITH KING HASSAN
BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. FAHD TOLD GUEDIRA HE COULD TELL NEW
MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD CONTINUE TO
PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT BUT THAT THIS SUPPORT WOULD BE
PROVIDED THROUGH MOROCCO AND THAT, IF MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN
RELATIONSHIP DETERIORATED, SAUDI AID WOULD NOT CONTINUE.
GUEDIRA SAID THAT, IN HIS CONTACTS WITH NEW GOVERNMENT,
MAURITANIZANS HAVE PROMISED TO COORDINATE THEIR POLICY
WITH MOROCCO. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE
OF THE SAHARAN DISPUTE, GUEDIRA FEEL BACK ON

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THE FORMULATION THAT HE "COULD NOT EXCLUDE" NEW
EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A PEACE SETTLEMENT OR MAURITANIA
REDUCING ITS WAR EFFORT.

3. WHEN TOLD THAT U.S. HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT ALGERIA
WOULD ACCEPT SOUTHWARD ADJUSTMENT OF THE MOROCCAN-
SAHARAN BORDER, GUEDIRA ACKNOWLEDGED THIES WAS THE CASE,

STATING THAT MOROCCAN SECTOR OF THE SAHARA WOULD NOT
BE THE MAJOR PROBLEM IN WORKING OUT AN ALGERIAN-
MOROCCAN AGREEMENT. RATHER IT WAS THE MAURITANIAN
SECTOR WHERE THE ALGERIANS WERE ADAMANT.
ANDERSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RABAT04440
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED PER 78 RABAT 4996
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780302-0910
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780730/aaaaazed.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cca08a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1917452
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUEDIRA\S COMMENTS ON MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA
TAGS: PEPR, AG, MO, MR, SS, WI, (SAUNDERS, HAROLD), (GUEDIRA, REDA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cca08a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014